

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 13, Issue 5

Dec 2024



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

December 19, 2024

Dear SRA Families,

With the quickly approaching final Sunday of Advent this weekend and the last day of school before the Christmas break on Friday, December 20, it seems appropriate to wish our school families a Merry Christmas and a peaceful holiday break. May all your gatherings with family and friends bring joy and happiness.

I sent a reminder out on Monday that **Friday, December 20, is a NOON DISMISSAL with NO AFTERCARE.** Please ensure you have arranged your childcare plans accordingly because the faculty and staff will head off campus to the faculty & staff Christmas party.

Christmas Parties will begin at 11:00 AM for grades K-8 on Friday, and the Preschool parties will also take place on Friday morning, but earlier. Ms. Molly and Ms. Tracy have communicated those times. Remember you must be in compliance with Protecting God's Children if you are helping with the class parties. All parents must sign in at the office.

Students may also wear Christmas accessories with their uniforms on Friday. Refer to the previous message or the Handbook for Accessory Days for further guidance.

Classes will resume on Monday, **January 6, 2024.** Looking ahead to the January calendar, we have two half-days scheduled. **January 17** is a SIP (School Improvement Planning)- and faculty meetings. **January 31** is the other half day, our annual Grandparent's Day that will end our Catholic Schools Week events.

Catholic School Week begins on Sunday, January 26, with Open House after 9:00 AM Mass from 10-1 PM. Each day of the week will have different themes and events. More information will come once we return to school after the break.

Thank you to our faculty and staff for last week's fantastic Christmas Program. Mrs. Copeland did an excellent job choosing fun songs and preparing the students. The middle school teachers also did a great job in preparing their students, too - thank you! I shared with Mrs. Copeland that some parents commented, "How is she going to top that?" That's a wonderful compliment to receive. It is so great to have a music teacher again. Thank you, Mrs. Copeland.

Our Jesse Tree is fully decorated with ornaments from Scripture, and the many gifts for Jesus surrounding the Advent Tree fill the wall in the hallway. Each student was asked to write about a gift that they would give to Jesus this year. There are some very sweet messages for Jesus. We must be ready for Christmas!

May your Christmas break be filled with Hope, Love, Joy and Peace,

Mrs. Hayes

Parents—We had some soft-spoken students at the Christmas performance, along with a tech glitch. (One of the mics had been turned down low for the performance before the 8th grade performed, and we forgot to turn it back up.) Most of this poem was rewritten by the students—some of them are quite clever with rhythm and rhyme schemes. Here is the poem, for your reading enjoyment!

Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the school, **Chase**
Not a student was focused, not one followed the rules.
The backpacks were stuffed by the lockers with care,
In hopes that dismissal soon would be there.

Everyone was so anxious, but everyone stayed. **Helen**
The classes were stirring—especially 8th grade.
The chairs were put down by the table with care,
In hopes that the weekend soon would be there.

The children were sitting all stiff in their desks, **Mac**
While visions of presents danced in their heads,
And students in their shoes, Mrs. R in her Crocs,
Working hard on their stories in their Google docs

And then in an instant, a sound from downstairs, **Addi**
The sound of play—the little preschool bears
We went to their room, and then heard a shout,
OUR buddies were jealous, they all had a pout.

The kindergarteners were there, as mad as could be **Evan**
Ronan cried, “What about US? What about ME?”
Mrs. R, “Buddy time—for now—has to wait.
It’s Orange chicken day—we don’t wanna be late!”

The teachers were trying, but losing the fight, **James**
While visions of silence danced in their sights.
With worksheets forgotten and lessons ignored,
The countdown to freedom could not be ignored.

When out in the hallway there rose such a clatter, **Paddy**
Mrs. Hayes had to sigh, “Now what’s the matter?”
Away to the doorway the teachers did dash,
But all they encountered was a candy cane stash.

The students were buzzing, so lively, so quick, **Frank**
It felt like SRA was a snowstorm of tricks.
More rapid than reindeer the chaos had spread,
As kids tossed their papers and pencils and said,

“No math! No science! Forget every class! **Hannah**
It’s nearly vacation—this stress will not last!
To the blacktop we go, with no looking back.
Let’s finish this day and start to unpack!”

With small kids running, so fast and so quick, **Charlie**
I knew in a moment they might trip on a stick.
More rapid than a pack of dogs the kids came,
Ms. Woods tried to whistle, but they could not be tamed.

MRS. HAYES DID PROCLAIM— **Ben**

Now Ann! Now Christy! Now Patti, Katie and Sioux! **Jake**
Now Leonard, Now Gretchen, now Louise—all of you,
You upper floor teachers are in need of a rest,
Because at SRA, you’re the best of the best!

But the lower floor teachers refused to be still, **Susan**
“We’re worn out, but there’s STILL Friday folders to fill.
Those top floor students, they write with such little ado.
Our kids? They scribble. They scrabble. They even eat glue!”

SRA’s beloved principal continued her talk, **Henry**
As along the hall and down the stairs she did walk
“You’re all teaching rockstars—every one of you.
We wouldn’t be great without all of us—it’s true!

Our cook, Qi, cooks up food that’s better than gourmet **Ava**
And Mr. Bob, he fixes things at our school every day
Our nurse, our counselor, our aides, our cleaning crew
Our secretary—to all of you I say, “Thank you!”

A couple of groups of people we still forgot **Christian**
Two groups of people that help SRA a lot
We cannot forget them, we cannot ignore them.
They’ve helped make our school what SRA’s become.

With our fundraisers, their support is never late! **Clara**
At graduations, who comes to help celebrate?
Who buys our tasty bake sale goodies after mass?
Who watches the kids progress, from class to class?

THE PARISH, OF COURSE **Ben**

And who makes sure we do our homework with care? **Javi**
And who helps out at recess and lunch with such flair?
They help us with mass readings, so we read ‘em just right!
They read our stories and our poems with such delight.

TA DA—THE PARENTS **Ben**

Father Molini—you always help us talk to the Lord **Clara**
Also the others who keep us spiritually on board
And Mrs. Hayes—the best principal in St. Lou—
Mrs. R has visions of report cards—on time—in the que!

MEANWHILE... **Ben**

The Friday before break, teachers made one final plea. **Christian**
“Let’s keep it together til the clock sets us free!”
But the countdown to noon, it couldn’t speed up
There were parties, chaos, and of course, clean-up

And then in a twinkling the last bell did sound, **Ava**
The doors flew open, and the kids surged around.
Backpacks in tow, they sprinted with cheer,
Shouting, “No more reading responses til next year!”

The teachers prepped for their Christmas get-together **Henry**
Nothing could stop their fun—no matter the weather
The staff gave a smile and a wave, exhausted but bright,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT! **Ben**

Announcements

Daily Mass Time: 8:00am
Grades K-3 T/W/Th
Grades 4-8 M/W/Th



January Birthdays

Ryan Stawizynski-2
Frank Koziacki-3
Mary Ellen Klos-5
Leo Rice-5
Stassi Boxdorfer-6
Stella Ronshausen-7
Sloane Schildz-9
Kerry Mense-9
Addison Pfeiffer-10
Ronan Stein-13
Francine Boxdorfer-14
Vincent Mosku-16
Cash Turner-16
Josephine LoBello-16
Rosemary Schmitt-18
Archie Hicks-24
Maeve Fitzgerald-26
Mr. Kraudel-27
Cruz Andrade-28
Patrick Reynolds-29
Anita Primo-30

July Half-Birthdays

Helen Potts-2
Corinne Pendry-5
Olivia Egan-7
Alex Rice-8
Olivia Wegman-8
Isla Jurek-9
Vida Maxfield-9
Nolan Mazzola-10
Michael Iovaldi-11
Sophia Peters-13
Henry Potts-13
Harper Bradshaw-15
Thomas Potts-17
Elena Issa-19
Charlie Adams-19
Cecelia Benner-19
Lucca LoBello-20
Ellie Kean-20
Katelynn Feldman-24
Miss Diane-28

JAN

Important Calendar Dates & Notes:

1/6 School Resumes

1/14 Home & School 6:30pm

1/15 Report Cards Open

1/17 Noon Dismissal-SIP Work Day

1/20 MLK Day-No School

1/20 School Board 7pm

1/26 Catholic Schools Week

Open House Sunday

1/26-1/31 Catholic Schools Week

1/28 Spelling Bee 1:45pm

1/31 Grandparents Day-Noon Dismissal

No Aftercare

TBD NWEA

Miss Molly: Preschool A



This month has been a whirlwind!! The Angels have been so busy with preparing for the Christmas program (which was fantastic by all!) We have been busy learning about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. We have made many crafts with Christmas and Christ themes. They are so looking forward to the big day!!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



The Bears have been spending December working hard on a variety of skills. We learned about St. Nicholas, and advent. We talked a lot about Christmas and birth of Jesus. The letters we worked on were S and J. The Bears continue working on handwriting, letters and numbers. The class put on a fantastic performance at the Christmas program. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas!



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

We've had a busy month in Kindergarten! We've been celebrating the season of Advent with a special Advent prayer each morning and we completed a writing activity detailing what gifts we would bring to baby Jesus. We continue to work on tallying and categorizing in math and are learning about and working with building CVC words in our literacy centers. We wish everyone a blessed and restful holiday season!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade had a busy month preparing for Christmas. We enjoyed learning more about Advent each day and adding to our Nativity Scene. We mastered fact families and number bonds in math, learned about sneaky e in phonics and studied the water cycle in science. The best part was doing the "12 Days of Christmas" when we got a special treat or did a fun activity on each of the 12 days leading up to break. Merry Christmas!



Second Grade News: Mrs. Toni Jackson

Second grade has been very busy in the month of December. We experienced the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on December 4! In Social Studies we have been exploring maps and where to find water in our world. This week we took a tour around the world as we explored how different countries celebrate Christmas. We are excited for Christmas and write about our favorite Christmas memories! After Christmas break we are excited to begin preparation for First Communion.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade had so much fun this December to end the Year of 2024!! We totally enjoyed the Christmas Musical and singing "O Come O Come Emmanuel." We know the Reason for the Season: Jesus' Birthday!! Blessings to all and enjoy time with Family & Friends.



Miss Patti Woods: English (4 &5) Religion (4 &7) Social Studies (4) Literature (4)

4th graders have been busy working on many things this month. They have finished their timelines of their lives up to the present, and have written their accompanying paragraph. They had to do a bit of research to find something that stands out to them in world events for each year of their lives to add to their timelines. It's a project I enjoy yearly and the 4th graders always seem to enjoy it also.

In religion we began our studies of the Ten Commandments and are making a slide show. They seem to enjoy making slide shows and are eager to add onto their Commandments. On literature we are working our way through Shiloh, but I don't know if we'll finish before Christmas Break.

5th graders are busy learning everything about verbs and their tenses. We will finish shortly after returning from Christmas Break.

7th grade religion is moving along. They took chapter 11 test. They are starting to research saints to find one that stands out for them to choose as their Confirmation saint. We will officially begin our studies for Confirmation after Christmas Break.

Merry Christmas to all! We hope you enjoy a healthy, happy Christmas!

Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-5), Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

4th Grade Math has been examining place value relationships.

5th Grade Math is practicing different algorithms to multiply multi-digit numbers.

5th Grade Literature is closing out our novel study for Bud, Not Buddy. We look forward to starting Esperanza Rising after the break.

5th Grade Religion has been taking a closer look at the weekly themes for the season of Advent.

I wish the SRA family a blessed Christmas season! See you in 2025!

Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6 & 8) Social Studies (5-8)

Religion:

The sixth-grade students are completing their study of how the Israelites entered Canaan after their journey through the desert. They will soon be learning about some of the Judges who were sent to help the Israelites.

The eighth-grade students have completed learning about the four Marks of the Catholic Church. Next semester they will begin looking at the history of the Church.

Social Studies:

Students in fifth and eighth grades will soon begin to learn about the causes and effects of the Civil War. The sixth-grade class will be working on sections of the continent of Africa until after the Christmas break. The seventh-grade class are finishing their study of Ancient Greece and will soon begin learning about Ancient Rome.

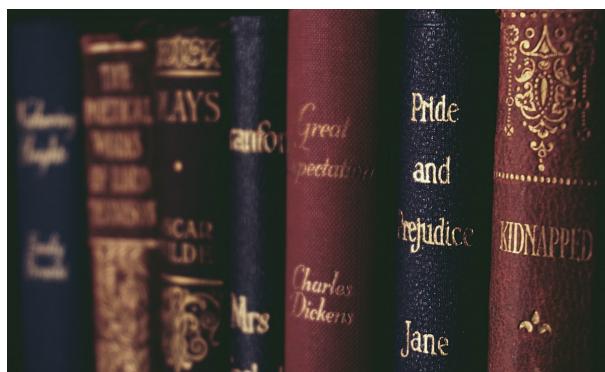
Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!!

Mrs. Anne Stein: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)

The middle school students have had a great first semester in math. The Algebra II students have been solving polynomial equations and inequalities. The Algebra class has been analyzing data using two way tables and scatter plots. The Pre-Algebra classes have been learning about different ways to represent linear relationships, finding slopes, and interpreting graphs of linear equations. The 7th Challenge students have been studying proportional relationships with fractions and percentages. The 6th Challenge class has been multiplying and dividing fractions and solving problems using fractions.

Mrs. Sioux Roslawski: Literature & English (6-7-8)

6th-8th ELA: We're all immersed in our lit books. Over the holiday, we're taking a break from our reading response journals. When we come back, we'll be pivoting when it comes to writing. May everyone have a joyous and blessed holiday.



Mr. Leonard Kraudel: Science/STREAM (4-5-6-7-8)

4th Grade Science is learning about adaptations of plants and animals that help them survive and is doing a Google Slide Presentation on an Animal of the World they didn't know much about.

5th Grade is learning about the different parts of the ecosystem; that every organism has its own niche, and they just finished a Missouri Food Web Poster.

6/7/8th Grade are learning how important the Oceans are to the world's climate and weather patterns on Earth.

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON! And there have been many crafts and artwork surrounding the Holidays and also projects that are taking it easy this month. Here is what each grade has been up to in December.

Pre-K: These students have created Beaded Christmas Wreaths, Penguins, and Christmas Trees!

Kindergarten-3rd: These students have created a Melted Snowman, Hand Print Snow Globes, and Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree! They got to watch Charlie Brown's Christmas while making these.

4th-5th: These students refreshed their minds on how they could represent each Element of Art in an Art-Choice Based Project! Very cool how each project showcases each student's interests.

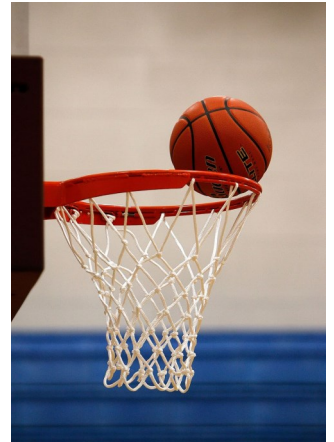
6th-8th: These students have been working vigorously on their year-long project! Their paper bowls have come a long way from the beginning of the school year and I'm excited to see how well they can push through to meet the measured goal.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Years and that you all have safe travels for the next couple weeks~ Thank you and I will see everyone after the break!

Mr. Jeff Klos: PE

Middle grades completed a basketball unit. They were given tips on chest passing and placement of hands and wrist. Shooting drills and dribbling tips were presented.

Pre school students have been working on movement commands and recognizing various lines and spots in the gym when commanded to move swiftly.



Mrs. Jena Copeland: Music

December in music was spent practicing and refining our Christmas Program performances. Thank you for all of your support at this year's Christmas Program!

